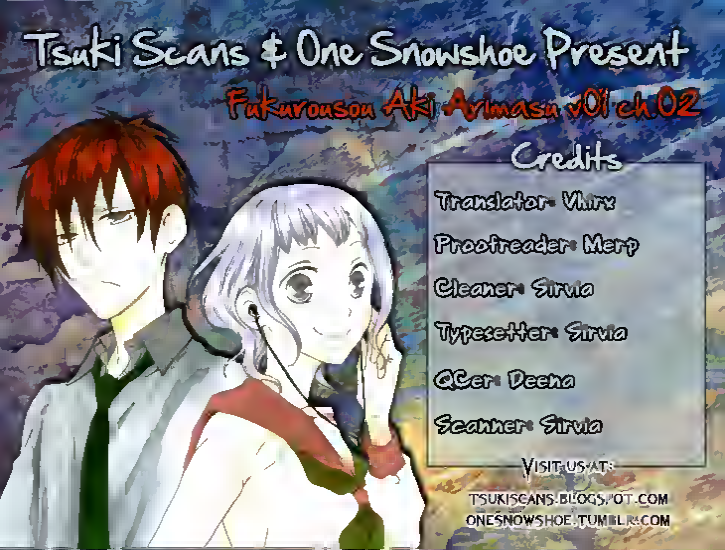
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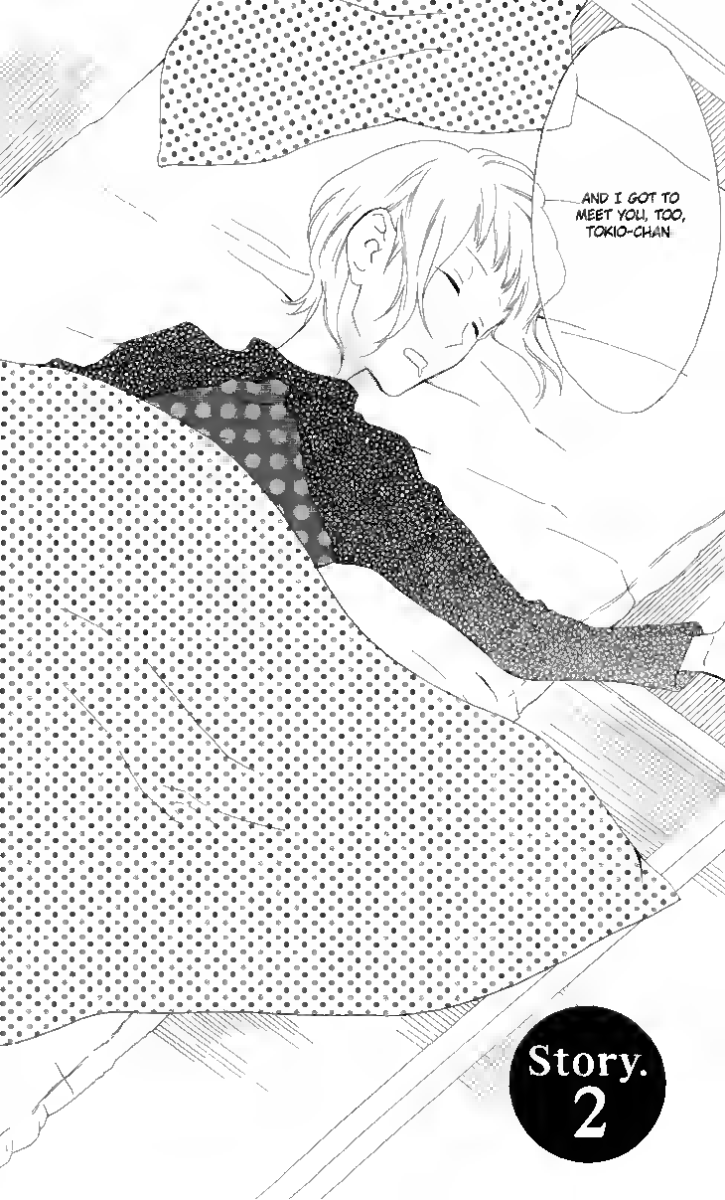
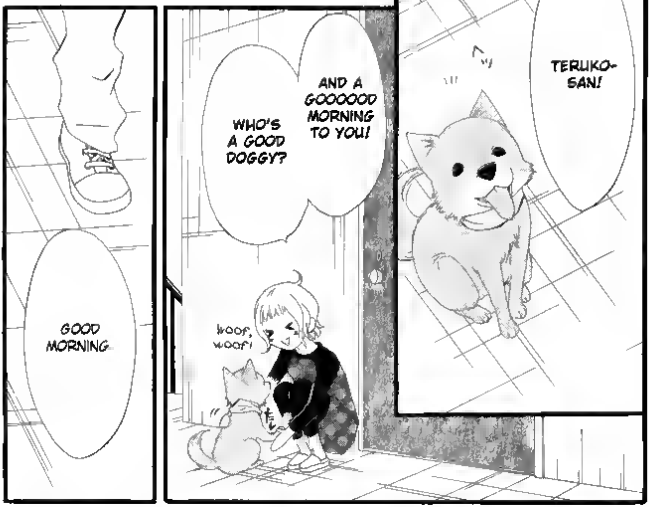
岡田
TAKE-WAKA
—THEN I'M COUNTING ON YOU,
..AH OH WELL
I'VE GOT NO FOOD FOR YOU
SURE THING, BUT SENSEI,
WOULD YOU MIND TREATIN' ME TO BREAK-FAST?
EHHHH?!

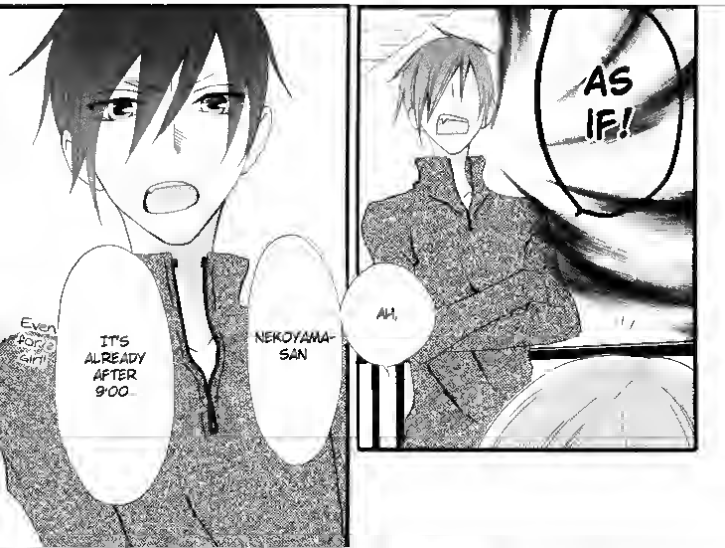


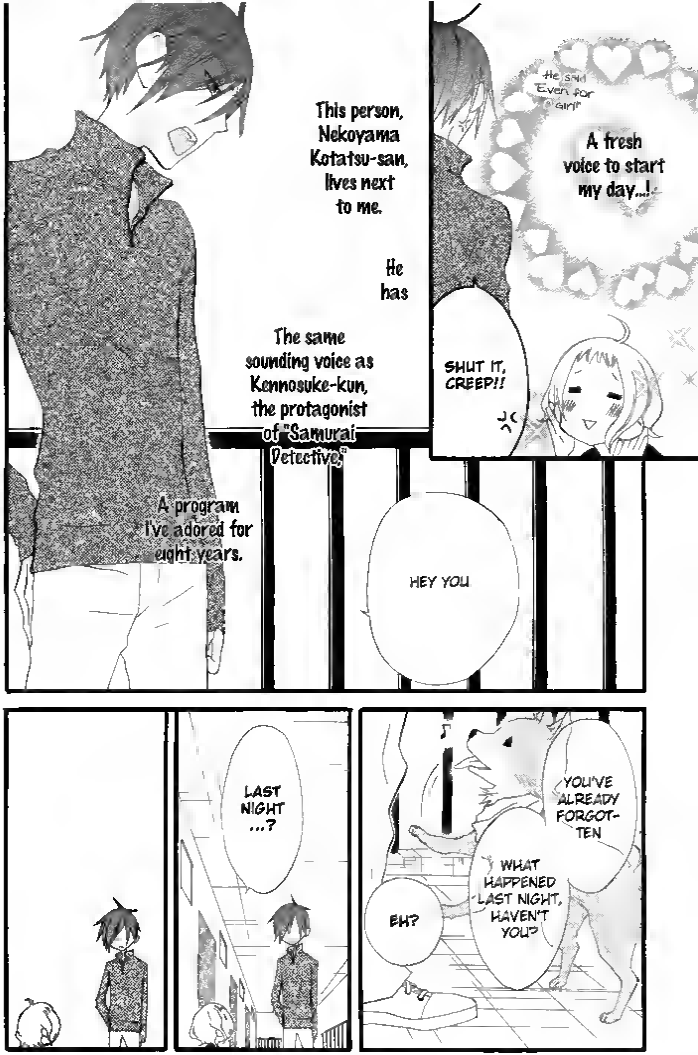
Story. 2

...Look at what I made for you!
Dig in!
...Hmm?
Isn't that voice...
Kennosuke-kun...!
And he can cook, too...!
What a perfect guy!
And don't you dare leave a bit on the plate.
...Huh?
...Got it?
And be grateful for what you're eating.
...Ah,
It was Nekoyama-san...
...
BUT I...

And prone to delusions and fantasies.
My disappointed grandfather forced me out of my home
And halfway extorted me into accepting this fate of living alone.
Oh, that's right...
EH?
WHERE'S THIS...
As of yesterday, I'm living on my own...
Where's my fried rice ?
Friendless, audiophile,
I'M FULL, NEKOYAMA-SAN...
Knock knock knock
Knock knock
MM?
Forced me to come to the "Fukurousou," Apartments he owns.
EH?
Knock, knock, knock, knock
AH!
...DIDN'T SOMEONE KNOCK BEFORE?
WHO COULD IT BE?
YEAH?


TERUKO-SAN!
AND A GOOOOOD MORNING TO YOU!
WHO'S A GOOD DOGGY?
woof, woof!
GOOD MORNING


AS IF!
AH,
NEKOYAMA-SAN
IT'S ALREADY AFTER 9:00
Even a dog is late!


This person, Nekoyama Kotatsu-san, lives next to me.
He has
The same sounding voice as Kennosuke-kun, the protagonist of "Samurai Detective."
A program I've adored for eight years.
HEY YOU
He said "Even for a girl"
A fresh voice to start my day...!
SHUT IT, CREEP!!
LAST NIGHT ...?
YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN
WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, HAVEN'T YOU?
EH?

...!
That's right...!
Last night Satoru's room
...EH?
WHAT ..
DID YOU SAY...?
YEAH,
SO LISTEN, OKAY?
YOUR GRANDFATHER IS MAKING YOU THE NEW MANAGER
OF THE FUKUROUSOU. ♡

Both as a tenant and as
The Fukurousou's next manager. My best.
As we discussed before, I am sending
My granddaughter to you during her holidays I'm leaving her in your hands
~~~!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING HE DECIDED ON OUT OF THE BLUE.
HERE.
...?!
WAIT, WAIT!! UM...
... WHAT?!
?!
A LETTER ...?
IT ARRIVED THE DAY BEFORE YOU DID
YEAH, IT'S A LETTER FROM YOUR GRANDFATHER.
I WAS ONE OF YOUR GRANDFATHER'S STUDENTS.
GRAMPS USED TO BE A TEACHER.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
HMM? OH,
TO WRITE A LETTER LIKE THIS ..
EH... BUT THIS IS
Just how do you know him..?!
~~~

...Gramps...!
Why would you do something like this...?!
UM... BUT I'M ONLY 15...! AND ALL I CAN DO IS FLOAT OFF IN FANTASIES...!
AND A MANAGER HAS TO TAKE ON ALL THIS RESPONSIBILITY ...!
DON'T WORRY!
I WON'T HAVE YOU DO ANYTHING TOO DIFFICULT!

A bit back, my friends got me interested in owl-themed items.

Lately, people started to take "owl" [Fukurou, ふくろう] and...

Turn it into "no hardship." [Fukurou, 不苦労]

It's wonderfully cute and heartwarming. *

*T/N: This is a homonym joke. "Owl" and "no hardship" utilize the same phonetic characters and are pronounced similarly in Japanese.

...EVEN THOUGH I SHUT UP AND ENDURED A GIRL LIVING NEXT TO ME,
A GIRL THE SAME AGE I AM AS MANAGER ..?
FIRST,
YOU SHOULD START BY COMMUNICATING WITH–
NO.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
SLAM
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN, "COMMUNICATING?!"
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING TO JOKE ABOUT!
SINCE I PREPARED DINNER TONIGHT, WOULD YOU MIND CLEANING UP, SATOMI-SAN?
AH, SURE

WHAT A STUBBORN BOY...
...
This is full-on blackmail!!
...PLEASE GIVE ME A MOMENT TO THINK...
Further
In the event she does not comply, do inform her
The "aforementioned items" ※ will be liquidated.
※
HER DRAMA CDS.
THANK YOU FOR DINNER.
EXCUSE ME.
"From today on,"
"Your grandfather will be both your mother and your father."
EH?
AH, UM...
AH, I'LL BE GOOD FOR ABOUT A WEEK...
EXCUSE ME.
AH, TOKIO-CHAN?
ABOUT THE BATH...
...HMMM.
"A CHILD NEVER KNOWS HER PARENT'S HEART," HUH?
This makes me remember back then.
Yeah, that time...
...That's what he said.

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT I SHOULD AT LEAST SAY HELLO TO THE OTHER RESIDENTS TODAY
AND WHILE THINKING NODDED OFF FASTER THAN.
Last night
UM,
..
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO DO IT, RIGHT?
AH, UMM
WELL, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LITTLE BIT .
All of a sudden...
HEY
はっ
FOR MY GRANDFATHER SPRINGING THIS.
I'M SORRY
AH?
BECOME THE MANAGER IN TRAINING
BUT I THINK I'LL PROBABLY
AND I'M SORRY FOR THIS, TOO

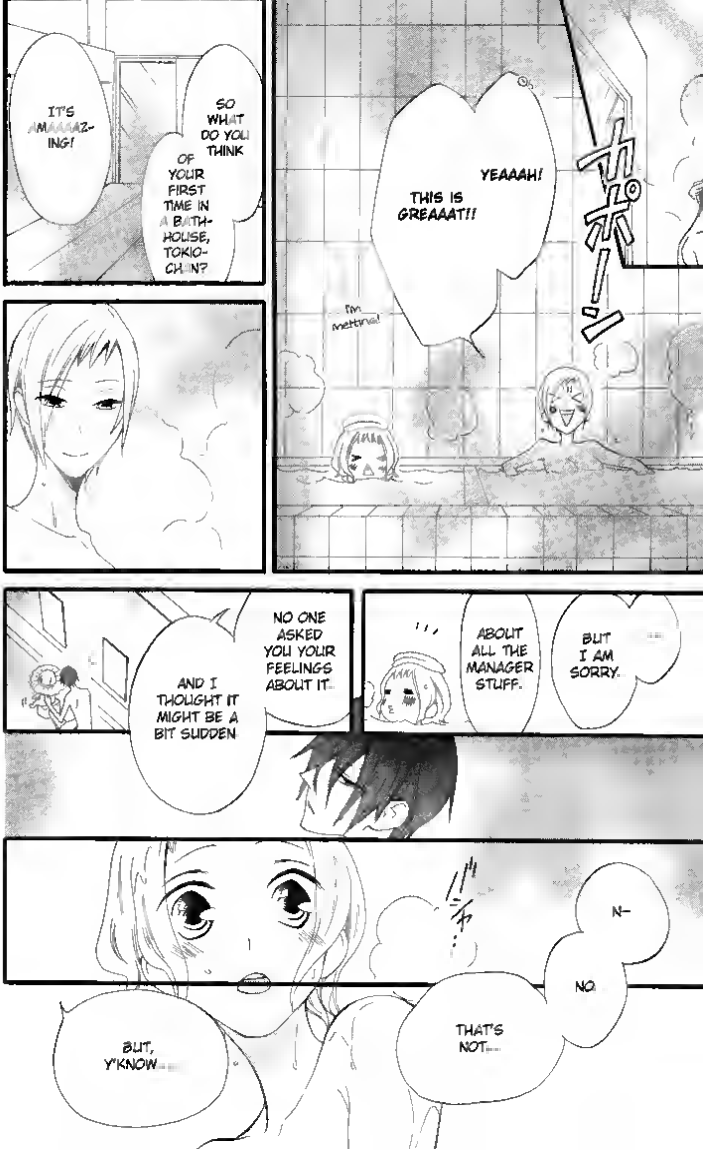
Now that I think of it...
IF A WOMAN WANTS TO PROTECT SOMETHING IMPORTANT,
THEN SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE!
... NEKOYAMA-SAN,
ARE YOU LIVING BY YOURSELF, TOO?
AND THAT'S EVEN...
EVEN IF IT EVEN IF IT MIGHT MEAN YOU SUF- SUFFER, I'LL !!
苦渋

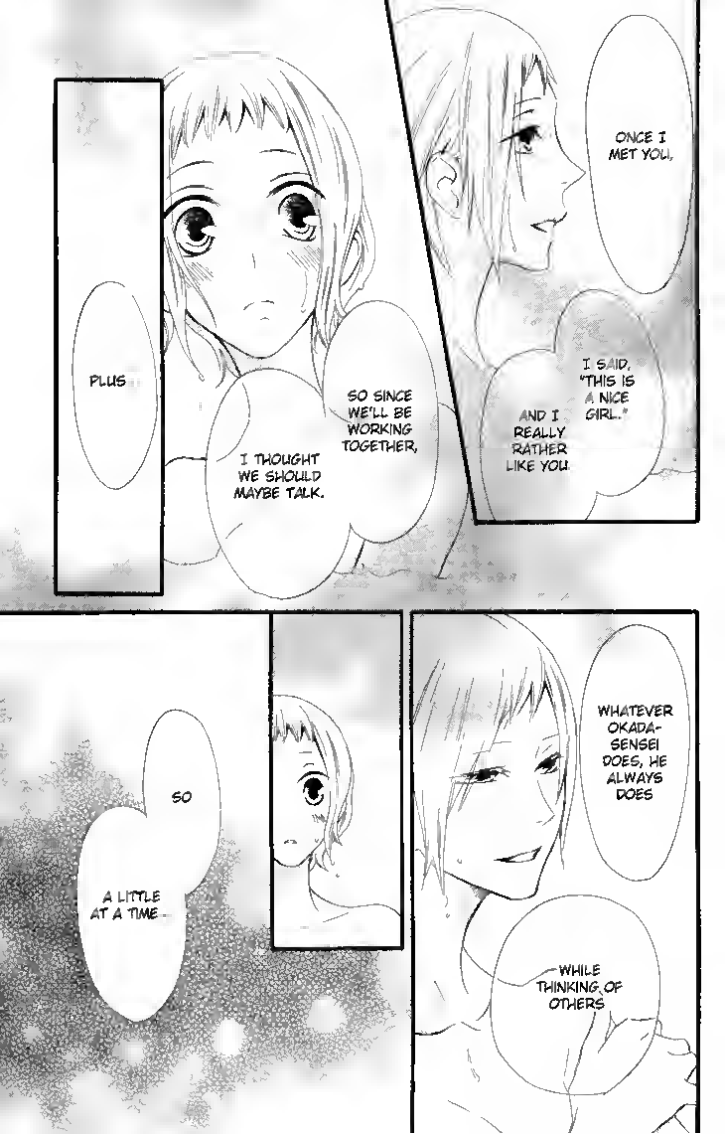
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU.
I CHOSE TO LEAVE.
MY PARENTS DIDN'T TELL ME, "GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE."
Ah....
BTTTTTTE

...!!
!!
TE-TERUKO-SAN...?
SLAM
!
AH!
THANK YOU...!
TERUKO-SAN...
Could it be
That you thought I was hurt...?
BUT TERKO-SAN, Y'KNOW,
WASN'T NEKOYA-MA-SAN'S VOICE WONDER-FUL...?
FWEH
スチャチャキ
Did he
JUST SIGH?!
He left me.

He might as well have been abandoned, huh?
チャッ チャッ チャッ チャッ
SHHH
EH?
Even though his voice sounded so cool...
But
To be hurt like this...
I SEE
I

A PUBLIC BATH?!
So that's why she said to get my clothes.
I had no idea!
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT LAST NIGHT
She could have just told me later though.
THAT'S WHY...
I THOUGHT WE SHOULD GO TOGETHER.
IT'LL BE FUN. DON'T YOU THINK, NAO?
UH-HUH.
Sorry.
YEAH.
THE FUKUROU-SOU DOESN'T HAVE ITS OWN SHOWER. SO WE ALL HAVE TO COME HERE.
I FORGOT TO MENTION IT BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
...
Awkward
This is really...
SO WE'LL SEE YOU LATER, KOTATSU-KUN
OKAY.
男
女
YOU'RE COMIN' THIS WAY, NAOYUKI
EHH? BUT I WAYS ...
YOU'RE GOIN' THIS WAY TODAY!


IT'S AMAAAZ-ING!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR FIRST TIME IN A BATH-HOUSE, TOKIO-CHAN?
YEAAAH! THIS IS GREAAAT!!
I'm melting!
NO ONE ASKED YOU YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT IT.
AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A BIT SUDDEN
ABOUT ALL THE MANAGER STUFF.
BUT I AM SORRY.
N-
NO
THAT'S NOT...
BUT, Y'KNOW...


ONCE I MET YOU,
I SAID, "THIS IS A NICE GIRL."
AND I REALLY RATHER LIKE YOU.
SO SINCE WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER,
I THOUGHT WE SHOULD MAYBE TALK.
PLUS...
WHATEVER OKADA-SENSEI DOES, HE ALWAYS DOES
WHILE THINKING OF OTHERS
SO
A LITTLE AT A TIME...

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE
TO GET TO KNOW YOU A LITTLE BIT.
I..
EIGHT YEARS AGO,
I LOST MY SIGHT TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS
AND I UNDERWENT SURGERY.

ふくろう荘 空きあります
BECAUSE OF MY CONDITION AND MY SURGERY,
I WAS TAKEN FROM MY PARENTS AND SENT TO LIVE WITH MY GRANDFATHER.
AH, THEN YOUR PARENTS ARE ALIVE AND WELL?
YEAH
WELL, I THINK
...YOU THINK?
I'M ACTUALLY A LITTLE EMBARRASSED
YOU SEE, I DON'T REMEMBER THEIR FACES, OR THE TIME I WAS WITH THEM,
OR ANYTHING AT ALL REALLY
My parents didn't tell me
"Get the hell outta here."
...BUT WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED LATELY,
I THINK I FINALLY GET IT

...I'LL BE GETTING OUT FIRST.
AH, SURE.
"Honestly, my job's too busy. I just don't have time for this."
...If it had only been my parents
Who abandoned me...
TOKIO-CHAN, BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR TIME, OKAY?
...?
OKAY
...
But it's really...

I
Would like you to keep this page from her.
Be it a few years or even a few decades,
I will certainly pass before her.
A heavy burden.
ALL SET
And nothing left behind
EH ? IS SATOMI-SAN WAITING OUTSIDE?
.HM?
How many pages
HUH?
FROM GRAMPS I READ LAST NIGHT
IT'S THE LETTER
WAS THERE ALWAYS A SECOND PAGE?

No longer afraid, I would like her to use her good eyes
To see people,
It was always
To see her friends,
To see their hearts.
going to be sudden.
If she stays as she is,
She will end up alone.
Relying solely on her ears,
I will not allow that.
Can you see me?
Tokio,
...I'm so glad.

Gramps...
NEKOYAMA-SAN...! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...
EH? I DON'T SEE SATOMI-SAN AROUND.
OR NAOYUKI-KUN.
HEY
THEY ALREADY LEFT.
AGAINST MY WILL!!
You had a fight, didn't you?
About her new position, right? So we're for her promotion and apologize properly
UM...
I'M SORRY FOR THIS MORNING
But Gramps...

It hurt so much
I'M SORRY...
— FOR ASKING YOU ABOUT THAT,
YOUR VOICE SOUNDED SO SAD
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
YOUR VOICE
WHAT ABOUT MY VOICE?
JUST SHUT UP.
...
The sadness in his voice.
I could hear.
!!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,
THAT WAS ME VENTING MY ANGER. IT WAS MY FAULT, IDIOT.

...SO I DECIDED
THAT I'M GONNA BE THE MANAGER IN TRAINING, NEKOYAMA-SAN!
?!
Gramps, if not for these ears,
I never would have realized it.
LISTEN TO ME, PERVERT!
JUST SO YOU KNOW. I'LL NEVER ACCEPT YOU AS THE MANAGER!
THAT'S A COPLETELY DIFFERENT SUBJECT!
BUT MY REASON IS
FOR MY OWN SAKE!
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE NEKOYAMA-SAN ACCEPT ME ?
AH, NEKOYAMA-SAN?
WHAT NOW?

はぜ
He's pale as a ghost!!
And shaking!
脱
THERE'S A MOTH ON YOUR--
NEKOYAMA-SAN, COULD IT BE
THAT YOU'RE SOME KID FROM THE CITY WHO'S NEVER TOUCHED A BUG?
!!
びくん
GLARE
... ARE YOU
TRYING TO THREATEN ME...?
EH?
Listen up!
YOU'RE TRYING TO THREATEN ME INTO ACCEPTING YOU AS MANAGER, RIGHT?
PEOPLE WHO BLACKMAIL ARE THE WORST KIND OF HUMANS!
YOU SHOULD LEARN SOME SHAME!!

?!
OH, I KNOW.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
SO IF YOU ACCEPT ME AS MANAGER,
I'LL COME TO SAVE YOU.
THEN WHENEVER A BUG COMES INTO YOUR ROOM,
GUH!
!!
THE ROOMS IN THE FUKUROUSOU ARE ALL PRETTY OLD, RIGHT? SO IN THE WINTER, ALL KINDS OF BUGS WILL GET IN
I SEE! I SEE!
I've always lived in an old house. So I'm used to them now
AHHH
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
YOU GUYS ARE JUST TOO CUTE.
...HM?
OHH
HE'S IN AGONY. AGONY.
HAHAHA

...WHO...?
HEYA! EVENING!
I'VE JUST COME FROM SEEING MR. OKADA.
THE NAME'S TAKEWAKA KANAE. ♡
I CAME TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT
ABOUT THE FUKUROUSOU